

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 13, NO. 151.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1912.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE LAWRENCE ACQUITTALS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

NONE will deny to Arturo Giovannitti the right of having, immediately upon the acquittal of himself and his fellow prisoners, thanked the jury “in the name of justice, truth, and civilization.” On the contrary, every militant in the Socialist or Labor Movement will applaud him.

Justice, Truth and Civilization were assaulted by the events that preceded the imprisonment of Ettor, Giovannitti and Caruso—workingmen and women, driven to rebel by the galling lash of the Lawrence mill owners, had been clubbed and bayoneted; wicked conspiracies to defame their strike had been set on foot by the planting of dynamite sticks by the Companies’ agents, or parasites; riots, incited by agents provocateurs, and that caused the death of a woman, were laid to the strikers’ doors, and were attempted to be turned into a club wherewith to smite their leaders.

From the beginning of the huge strike, down to the arrest of Ettor, Giovannitti and Caruso, all that Justice stands for, all that Truth represents, all that Civilization holds dear was affronted by every step taken by the mill owners and by their political agents.

Nor did the series of outrages end with the arrest. It only changed hands, culminating with the crowning outrage of the District Attorney in endeavoring to arouse the jury’s animosity against the prisoners by appeals to the most ignoble of instincts—the Jingo instincts among others.

Truly, Justice, Truth and Civilization were in jeopardy. Well does the jury deserve thanks. Nor was there any with better right to deliver the thanks than Giovannitti and Ettor, the latter of whom extended the thanks “in the name of the working class.”

With the anti-political methods of Ettor and Giovannitti we have no sympathy,

whatever. Nevertheless, these men having been pounced upon by the vulture Capitalism for that that they have in common with the militant Socialist Movement the world over—determined opposition to Capitalist misrule—we join in the joy of their vindication. Their vindication goes far towards chastening the feelings of the contestants on both sides of the line; to cause the hope to gather strength that the final issue of the Social Question may be determined by ways and means calculated to cause Civilization to beam with pride, not blush with shame.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded May 2014

slpns@slp.org